

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. An apparatus for heating and dispensing a gel from any one of a plurality of cans having different sized stems, the

5 apparatus comprising:

a housing having a recess therein;

a coupling assembly selectively engageable with each of the plurality of cans for disposing at least a portion of each of

10 the plurality of cans in said recess;

a heater assembly having a heater and a heating chamber in thermal communication with said heater; and

an intake assembly in fluid communication with said heating chamber, wherein said intake assembly is selectively movable to engage with the different sized stems of the plurality of cans for supplying the gel to said heating chamber.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing has an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein said recess is formed

20 in said lower portion, and wherein said lower portion is selectively movable with respect to said upper portion.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said upper portion has a substantially elongated shape and said lower portion has a substantially circular shape.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said coupling assembly has a movable fastener that selectively engages with each of the plurality of cans.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said movable fastener is a circumferential flange disposed about a periphery of said recess.

5 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said heater assembly further comprises a heat sink, and wherein said heating chamber is formed in said heat sink.

10 7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said heating chamber is a channel having a non-linear shape.

15 8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said heat sink has a first portion, wherein said heater is disposed adjacent to said first portion, and wherein said heating chamber is substantially disposed in said first portion.

20 9. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an actuator and an exhaust valve, said exhaust valve being in selective fluid communication with said heating chamber, wherein depressing said actuator causes gel disposed in said heating chamber to dispense through said exhaust valve.

25 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said heating chamber has a maximum volume, and wherein actuating said actuator causes a volume of gel substantially equal to said maximum volume to be dispensed through said exhaust valve.

11. An apparatus for heating and dispensing a gel from a can having a stem, the apparatus comprising:

30 a housing having a recess therein;

a coupling assembly selectively engageable with the can to dispose at least a portion of the can in said recess;

a heater assembly having a heater, a heat sink and a heating chamber formed in said heat sink, said heating chamber
5 being in thermal communication with said heater; and

an intake assembly operably connected to said housing and in fluid communication with said heating chamber and the stem of the can when said at least a portion of the can is in said recess for supplying the gel to said heating chamber.

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12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said heating chamber is a non-linear channel.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said heat sink has
15 a first portion, wherein said heater is disposed adjacent to said first portion, and wherein said heating chamber is substantially disposed in said first portion.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising an
20 actuator and an exhaust valve, said exhaust valve being in selective fluid communication with said heating chamber, wherein depressing said actuator causes gel disposed in said heating chamber to dispense through said exhaust valve.

25 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said heating chamber has a maximum volume, and wherein actuating said actuator causes a volume of gel equal to said maximum volume to be dispensed through said exhaust valve.

30 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said housing has an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein said recess is formed

in said lower portion, and wherein said lower portion is selectively movable with respect to said upper portion.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said upper portion
5 has a substantially elongated shape and said lower portion has a substantially circular shape.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said coupling assembly has a movable fastener that selectively engages with
10 the can.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said movable fastener is a circumferential flange disposed about a periphery of said recess.

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20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said intake assembly is selectively movable with respect to the stem when said coupling assembly is engaged with the can.

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21. A system for heating and dispensing a gel comprising:
a housing having a recess, a coupling assembly, an intake assembly and a heater assembly, said intake assembly being in fluid communication with said heater assembly; and

a can having a stem and top, middle and bottom portions, said can containing gel under pressure, said stem being disposed on said top portion,

30 wherein said coupling assembly selectively engages said top portion of said can in said recess and selectively engages said

intake assembly with said stem to supply the gel to said heater assembly.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein said middle and bottom
5 portions of said can are outside of said recess and accessible.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein said heater assembly comprises a heater, a heat sink and a heating chamber formed in said heat sink, and wherein said heating chamber is in thermal
10 communication with said heater.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein said heating chamber is a channel having a non-linear shape.

15 25. The system of claim 23, wherein said heat sink has a first portion, wherein said heater is disposed adjacent to said first portion, and wherein said heating chamber is substantially disposed in said first portion.

20 26. The system of claim 23, wherein said housing further comprises an actuator and an exhaust valve, said exhaust valve being in selective fluid communication with said heating chamber, wherein depressing said actuator causes the gel disposed in said heating chamber to dispense through said
25 exhaust valve.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein said heating chamber has a maximum volume, and wherein actuating said actuator causes a volume of gel equal to said maximum volume to be dispensed
30 through said exhaust valve.

28. The system of claim 21, wherein said coupling assembly has a movable fastener that selectively engages with said top portion of said can.

5 29. The system of claim 28, wherein said movable fastener is a circumferential flange disposed about a periphery of said recess.

10 30. The system of claim 21, wherein said intake assembly is selectively movable with respect to said stem when said coupling assembly is engaged with said top portion of said can.

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